

2

[Docket No. GJE-13XC1D1C1]
[Serial No. 09/767,355]

Sub B1
A1

consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.

Claim 3. (Amended):

A2

The method according to claim 1, wherein said animals are selected from the group consisting of pigs, poultry, and ruminants.

Please cancel claims 4-5 and add the following new claims:

Claim 6. (New):

The method according to claim 3, wherein said animals are pigs.

Claim 7. (New):

The method according to claim 3, wherein said animals are poultry.

Claim 8. (New):

The method according to claim 3, wherein said animals are ruminants.

Claim 9. (New):

The method according to claim 8, wherein said ruminants are cattle.

A3

Claim 10. (New):

The method according to claim 1, wherein said amount of organism is between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

Claim 11. (New):

The method according to claim 1, wherein said amount of organism is between 10^9 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

S:\sh-rcsp\gjc\GJE-13XC1D1C1-Amendment.doc/DNB/jaj

3

Docket No. GJE-13XC1D1C1
Serial No. 09/767,355Claim 12. (New):

The method according to claim 1, wherein said feedstuff comprises forage, cereal grain, grasses, legumes, crop residues, corn, sorghum, wheat, rye, barley, oats, rice, cottonseed, gin trash, cotton processing byproducts, potato waste, citrus pulp, almond hulls, peanut hulls, bakery waste, wheat midds, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 13. (New):

The method according to claim 12, wherein said feedstuff is whole, chopped, ground, ensiled, cracked, high moisture, or steam-flaked.

Claim 14. (New):

sub B2> An essentially dry solid feed comprising a feedstuff and an amount of an organism selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*, wherein said amount of organism increases animal feed efficiency.

Claim 15. (New):

A3 The dry solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus buchneri*.

Claim 16. (New):

The dry solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said amount of organism is administered in an amount of between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

Claim 17. (New):

The dry solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said amount of organism is between 10^9 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

Claim 18. (New):

sub C3> The dry solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said feedstuff comprises forage, cereal grain, grasses, legumes, crop residues, corn, sorghum, wheat, rye, barley, oats, rice, cottonseed, gin trash, cotton processing byproducts, potato waste, citrus pulp, almond hulls, peanut hulls, bakery waste, wheat midds, or mixtures thereof.

S:\sh-resp\gje\GJE-13XC1D1C1-Amendment.doc/DNB\jaj

4

Docket No. GJE-13XC1D1C1
Serial No. 09/767,355

sub C3 >

Claim 19. (New):

The dry solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus kefir*.

Claim 20. (New):

The dry solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus parakefir*.

A3

Claim 21. (New):

The dry solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.

Claim 22. (New):

The dry solid feed according to claim 18, wherein said feedstuff is whole, chopped, ground, ensiled, cracked, high moisture, or steam-flaked.
